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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/607,126	06/29/2000	David Moy	0064738-0040	8491

7590 02/22/2002

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EXAMINER	
HENDRICKSON, STUART L	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1754	3

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)
60/126	May
Examiner	**Group Art Unit**
Hendrickson	1754

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

☐ This action is **FINAL.**

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)–(d)

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)–(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:

☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO–1449, Paper No(s). _____

☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO–892

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO–948

☐ Interview Summary, PTO–413

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO–152

☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970);and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-75 of U.S. Patent No. 6221330. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because using CO as the gas is encompassed by the present independent claims- and explicitly recited in dependent claims. Thus, the application claims subject matter overlapping that of the patent- see In re Malagari 182 USPQ 549.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kiang et al. article 'Carbon Nanotubes With Single-Layer Walls'.

The title of the article itself teaches the claim- the article teaches SWNTs. Although the process steps are not taught, a product is claimed and that product is taught. Where the examiner has found a substantially similar product as in the applied prior art the burden of proof is shifted to the applicant to establish that their product is patentably distinct not the examiner to show that the same process of making, see In re Brown, 173 U.S.P.Q 685, and In re Fessmann, 180 U.S.P.Q. 324.

Claims 1, 4-9, 12-14, 17, 19, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Sen et al. 'Carbon Nanotubes by the Metallocene Route'.

The reference teaches on pg. 277 pyrolysis of benzene/ferrocene, in the presence of hydrogen at 900 degrees. Page 279 teaches SWNTs. Figure 3 shows hollow tubes. No pressurization is taught, so the very broad range of claim 6 is deemed met. Page 278 teaches mixing the metal and carbon source.

Claims 1, 4-9, 12-14, 17, 19 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Sen et al.

Sen supra, does not explicitly exemplify a single example precisely delineating all the claimed features, even though all the claim limitations are taught by the reference. In so far as the pictures are not clear enough to be identifiable as hollow and that SWNTs are suggested, no patentable difference between what is disclosed by Sen versus the claims is seen. In so far as the rejection is made under '103, altering the gas composition to obtain hollow SWNTs is an obvious expedient to make useful carbon fibers taught by the reference. This is essentially the same rejection made in the parent application, incorporated herein by reference.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

It is noted that many references teach single-wall nanotubes; the Kiang reference is taken as representative of them. The others are not applied in order to avoid duplication of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Hendrickson at telephone number (703) 308-2539.

Stuart Hendrickson
examiner Art Unit 1754